

In the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [006] as follows:

Another ~~from~~ form of security for individuals is referred to as biometrics, which is the biological identification of a person which includes the characteristics of structure or action. For example, iris or retinal patterns, hand geometry, fingerprints, voice responses to challenges, the dynamics of hand-written signatures, etc. are all forms of biometrics. Biometrics is a strong form of identity authentication of an individual; however, many forms have a high failure rate. Also, biometric identifications have the disadvantage that they are impossible to withdraw.

Please amend paragraph [040] as follows:

Radio frequency identification (RFID) technology exists in which tags are provided in the form of transponders that are embedded in items to act as identifiers of the items. Readers or scanners act as an interface between the transponders and a data environment. Transponders and the means used to read them are available [[is]] in a number of forms. Any suitable form can be used for the purposes of the present invention.

Please amend paragraph [042] as follows:

Referring to Figure 1A, an item 100 has a tag 102 embedded in it. The tag 102 is embedded in a way that it is securely but unobtrusively attached to the item 100. The form of attachment will depend on the nature of the item 100. The tag 102 is in the form of a transponder including a microchip with a memory capacity for holding data 104. The form of the transponder may vary according to the system being used. For example, transponders may differ in size, memory

capacity, physical construction and distance over which they can be operated. As an example only, a transponder may have a memory capacity of 64 bits and a reading range of read in the order of 1 to 2 meters.

Please amend paragraph [051] as follows:

The system can require that the user 200 be in possession of the total set of M registered tags for access to a resource to be permitted. Alternatively, a sub-set of the registered set of tags (i.e., a sub-set comprising N tags of the ~~register~~ registered N tags such that N is equal to or less than M) can be sufficient for access to be permitted. The sub-set comprising N tags could be any permutation of the total set of the M registered tags, or alternatively could be a minimum number of tags of the M registered tags may be required.

Please amend paragraph [069] as follows:

For example, the data in the certificate 308 can be encrypted with the user's private key 302 and the data will only be available to ~~parties~~ parties who have the public key 304 of the user 300. The number of people who have access to the public key 304 can be controlled by the user 300 or by the operator of the identification system. This provides an added level of security to both the user 300 and the party obtaining authentication of the user 300.

Please amend paragraph [073] as follows:

An account holder wishing to make a payment is scanned for a sub-set of the registered tags and authorisation for payment is sought by the trader from the credit card company. The credit card

company will identify the account from the sub-set of tags and will know from the certificate how much the account holder is authorised to spend. If this amount is within the credit limit, payment is authorised. This process can be carried out automatically in a data environment with a tag reader provided at a place of trade.

Please amend paragraph [100] as follows:

On entering the workplace, the user is [[be]] scanned by a reader and the tag identifications are checked against the registered set held in the database. As this database has already been updated by the car registration system, the user is permitted access to the workplace automatically.